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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/519,073	12/23/2004	Atsushi Fukui	MAM-056	7337		
20374	7590	04/13/2009	EXAMINER			
KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK SUITE 1105 1215 SOUTH CLARK STREET ARLINGTON, VA 22202				LEE, CYNTHIA K		
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER				
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04/13/2009		PAPER				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte ATUSHI FUKUI; YASAYUKI KUSUMOTO; MARIKO
TORIMAE
HIROSHI NAKAMURA

Application 10/519,073
Technology Center 1700

Mailed: April 13, 2009

Before KRISTA ZELE, *Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator.*

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL

This application was electronically received by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on February 04, 2009. A review of the application revealed that it is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the Examiner to address the following matter(s) requiring attention prior to docketing.

EXAMINER'S CONSIDERATION OF REPLY BRIEF

A Reply Brief was filed on December 29, 2008, in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed October 29, 2008.

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §41.43 states:

(a)(1)... the primary examiner must acknowledge receipt and entry of the reply brief. In addition, the primary examiner may withdraw the final rejection and reopen prosecution or may furnish a *supplemental examiner's answer* responding to any new issue raised in the reply brief. (emphasis added)

The Communication mailed March 20, 2009, was an improper acknowledgment of the Reply Brief, as it constitutes a Supplemental Examiner's Answer as per MPEP § 1208, part II. A Supplemental Examiner's Answers requires a Director or designees approval.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner to:

- 1) vacate the Communication mailed March 20, 2009; and,
- 2) generate and mail either:
 - a) a revised Communication properly acknowledging to the Reply Brief dated December 29, 2008 in accordance with MPEP§ 1208, part II.; OR

b) issue a Supplemental Examiner's Answer with the required signature (Technology Center Director or designee), if appropriate; and,
3) for such further action as may be appropriate.

If there are any questions pertaining to this Order, please contact the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences at 571-272-9797.

KZ/MV/MAT

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